

Status of the Claims

In order to avoid confusion arising from claim numbering, all the claims of the application have been canceled and replaced with new claims 27-47. Applicants believe that new claims 27-35 correspond to claims 6-14 of Group I set forth in the Office Action mailed July 5, 2000 (paper no. 9).

Response to Election of Species Requirement

The Examiner has required an election of species. Applicants elect the following species:

1. Polymer species: trimeric copolymer styrene, ethylene, and butadiene SEBS.
2. Chlorinated solvent species: dichloroethane. Applicants note that 1,4-dichloromethyl-2,5-dimethylbenzene is a cross-linking agent, and not a solvent. As a result, 1,4-dichloromethyl-2,5-dimethylbenzene should not be considered a species of the chlorinated solvent.

Upon indication of allowable subject matter, Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of all the species to the patentable genus.

CONCLUSION

Applicants hereby claim small entity status under 37 C.F.R. §1.27.

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicants hereby petition for an extension of one (1) month to December 23, 2000, in which to file a reply to the Office Action. The required fee of \$55.00 is enclosed herewith.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert E. Goozner, Ph.D. (Reg. No. 42,593) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees

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required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17;  
particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Rev. 04/19/2000